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USSR

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REISSUE

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS RELATING TO
FRANCISCA BURNY ALIAS "SISTER"

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Item 1.

From: CANBERRA

To: MOSCOW

No: 130

25 April 1945

To VIKTOR[i].

"CLAUDE [KLOD]"[ii] has informed "TECHNICIAN [TEKHNIK]"[iii] that Francisca BURNY, who began work 4 or 5 months ago at EVATT's[iv] as a secretary-typist, is an undercover [NELEGAL'NIY] member of the "FRATERNAL [BRATSKAYA]"[v]. Without giving details about BURNY, CLAUDE indicated that she is 22 years old, married and that he personally is connected with her through the "FRATERNAL"[v]. Furthermore C. [K.][vi] says that he is giving her detailed instruction on how to conduct herself while working in EVATT's outfit [APPARAT] particularly emphasising to her that she should be scrupulously careful in speaking about her work so that none of her friends, or even her [C% relatives], with the exception of himself (CLAUDE), should know what she is doing and that materials pass through her hands.

[Continued overleaf]

Distribution

Note: Secretary-typist BURNY really does work at EVATT's. TECHNICIAN has seen her a number of times in the secretariat. At the next meeting with CLAUDE, TECHNICIAN will ask for detailed data about her and also will establish whether C. is receiving any materials through her and how.

EFIM[vii]

No.33

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- Comments: [i] VIKTOR: Lt.-General P.M. FITIN.
[ii] KLOD: Walter CLAYTON.
[iii] TEKHNIK: Fedor Andreevich NOSOV.
[iv] Dr. Herbert V. EVATT, Australian Attorney-General and Minister for External Affairs.
[v] BRATSKAYA: the Communist Party.
[vi] K. : i.e. KLOD.
[vii] EFIM: Semen Ivanovich MLKIROV.

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Issued 8/11/52

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Item 2.

From: CANBERRA

To: MOSCOW

No: 202 - 203

2140 : 5 July 52

[2 part message complete]

[Part I] To VICTOR.

"CLAUD" [KLOD] has given additional data about "SISTER" [SESTR.] [a]. In 1942 she took an active part in the work of the "BUREKA" youth organisation (the local Young Communist League [KOMKOMOL]), and since 1943 has been a member of the "FRATERNAL" [BRATSKAYA] [b]. In 1943 "SISTER" was working as assistant secretary of the "BUREKA" organisation. At [C, this] period the FRATERNAL had some doubts about her social past, environment and connections. The doubts were raised by the instability of ~~her conduct~~ [c] her conduct. SISTER comes from the middle levels of the population. Her family was against her becoming [B, a member] of the FRATERNAL. Despite this, SISTER later of her own accord entered the FRATERNAL, but did not become an active member. In 1943 SISTER left her parents. She wanted to get away from family restrictions and be a bit nearer to the centre of the youth organisation. While in the latter, she once appealed to CLAUD to [C, get] her into a post in the FRATERNAL organisation [APP.R.T]. Being at that time in an extremely poor state of health (advanced tuberculosis) she was advised to go back to her family and rest for about six months. Some months later she [B, came back again] [and] [c] [D, was told of a decision] to find some sort of work

[35 groups unrecoverable]

.....X GLUCK¹ who is a member of the FRATERNAL and that being married had had an exceptionally [C, strong] favourable influence upon her. She became steadier and more serious. Her husband at present is in the army in the "Labour Corps", and is afraid that people might know about his being a member of the FRATERNAL.

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[Part II] While working as a journalist in AUSTRIA, he was a member of the Social-Democratic Party. He attempted to hide this fact saying that he was a member of the Austrian FRATERNAL. He apparently gives the impression of being a weak fellow and a typical social-democrat in his convictions and conduct. At one time he asked the party to release him from the "Labour Corps", but his request was refused. C.[K.] says that his connexion with the party is founded on a basis of emotion rather than of class. A good quality in SISTER as C. notes is the fact that she [C.] is not talkative. However, he thinks that a lot of [B.] work will need to be put in on her in order to turn her into a worker we can be sure of. C. has begun to carry out work along these lines. He has already had a number of meetings with her. C. thinks SISTER is EVATT's secretaries' typist for secret correspondence. She sits in a separate room. At one of the meetings she brought C. copies of some of secretary D.LZIEL's [D.] [sic!] letters to his Minister, EVATT, in SAN FRANCISCO. The materials are of no great interest. However, there are some [D.] data on the increasing struggle between the Liberal Party (MENZIES [MENZIS]) and the labour people, and also on the growing squabble for power within the Labour Government, in view of which D. giving vent to the opinion of some Labour Party members, advises him to hurry back to AUSTRALIA and make himself the power in the government [D.] [6 groups unrecoverable] urgently put forward the necessary propaganda and agitation in opposition to the reactionary Liberal Party. C. warned me that for a start he refrained from accepting any documents from SISTER and instructed her on the lines that she should try to give interesting accounts herself from memory.

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[Signed] EFIM

T.N. [a] SISTER [SESTRA] = Frances BURNBY (see item 1 above).

[b] The FRATERNAL. See T.N. [b] to item 1.

[c] Inserted by the translator.

[d] [sic] GLUCK.

[e] D.LZIEL, [D.] [sic]
[f] EVATT
[g] MENZIES

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Item 2:
Serial 202-3. 05075.

[See under date 25045]